

**Morgan County Soil
and Water
Conservation District**

90 S. Burke Street

Versailles, MO 65084

573-378-5822 ext. 101

Soil Conservation News

Sign-Up Underway for Cost-Share Practices

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation districts is currently holding sign up for FY 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) cost-share funds.

Our cost-share funds are now given to us in allocation groups and are given to landowners on a first come first served basis within each allocation group.

We do have a few names on our commitment list that we could not get to with this years allocation. These people will be the first ones offered cost-share funds when we receive our next allocation. If you are not sure if you are on the list or would like to be please call our office at 573-378-5822 ext. 101.

We will be receiving cost-share funds to address the following resource concerns.

Sheet, Rill and Gully Erosion

Sheet, rill and gully erosion is the unwanted removal of soil from the land surface or through incised channels by the action of rainfall or runoff.

If you see problems like this on your farm, you could: establish a good vegetative cover to stabilize the soil, build terraces to reduce the erosive force of water, use a no-till system, plant trees and shrubs at the edge of fields to help with wind erosion, build a pond to catch sediment, develop diversions to direct rainwater; and plant sod forming grasses to efficiently transport rainfall.

Grazing Management

The steady use of an area by livestock can cause erosion problems and water quality.

You can make the best use of soil and water resources by: improving the vegetative cover on pastures and developing a planned grazing system that may include developing water sources and water distribution, fencing to construct paddocks, lime to manage pH of the soil and the inter-seeding of legumes.

Sensitive Areas

Sensitive areas are areas of agricultural land where current management has impacted erosion, surface water and ground water.

For the protection of water quality in streams, you can: plant grass buffers or woody species along the edges of crop fields, or below cropland to trap runoff, plant trees or shrubberies to reduce wind erosion, exclude livestock from streams, place large stones or anchored cedar trees to eroding stream banks to protect groundwater, you can: establish buffers of exclusion around sinkholes, create spring collection points for livestock use and fill and seal abandoned wells.

Cost-Share Available for Sensitive Areas

One of the areas that Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District can help landowners is with Sensitive Areas. These are areas on the farm that need some attention to address erosion and water quality issues. Funding is currently available to help these types of areas that include:

Stream Protection— This practice reduces the excess amount of sediment and nutrients in the stream by excluding livestock from having access to the stream. Both sides of the stream must be fenced to qualify. If the stream is your water source we can work with you to develop a new water source when establishing this practice. Along with cost-share payments for the establishment, there is a one-time incentive payment for the practice.

Spring Development— This practice helps landowners utilize their existing water source from the spring by piping the clean water to a tank to be utilized by livestock.

Well Decommissioning— This practice allows the landowner to plug unwanted and unused wells for health and safety reasons. By plugging the abandoned well you are reducing the amount of fertilizer, pesticides and foreign debris from entering into your water supply and keeping your children safe from slipping into the well shaft. This is a very easy practice to complete by filling the bore hole with rock/gravel and sealing it with bentonite or cement. Cisterns do not qualify for this practice. The cost-share for this practice is a flat \$400 incentive per well.

If you would like more information or would like to have someone visit your farm to look at possible sites please call the office at (573)-378- 5822 ext. 101 or 3.

Abandoned wells such as this one on the right pose a danger to children and animals as well as being pathways for contamination of ground water.



Get advice on your forest with MO Woods App

By Brian Shweiss, MDC

Hey, landowners, grab your smartphones. There is a new app ready for landowners with woods and forests.

It was developed specifically to assist Missouri landowners in an initial evaluation of their woodlands for forest health, wildlife habitat and timber sale potential.

In the app there are links to other resources that may be of use too, such as : insects and disease issues for Missouri woods, wildlife habitat improvement options and timber sale guidance (from the Call Before You Cut website). Landowners now can email their results along with a picture of their woods along with a picture of their woods and even request assistance from a forester.

Both iPhone and Adroid users can download this app, as it is available in both app stores. Start by searching for "Missouri Forestkeepers" or "MO Woods." Once downloaded on your phone, head to the woods. The app will guide you through some steps to gather information. A series of pictures will determine details about the woods.

One of the first questions asked is about forest density. The app requires a visual estimate of the density using low, medium and high as references. Next up is tree species identification. Identify the primary species in your forest that make up the main canopy of trees. Leaf pictures are provided to assist in identification.

For each species chosen, the app asks for an estimate of the percent present in the forest. It also asks for an average size of each species. Three categories are there to give guidance on how to measure trees. Then, figure out the average quality of your trees in the species. Pictures are provided to serve as a guide.

Continue on to the next step and three different prescriptions will be given: one for timber sale potential, one for forest health, and one for wildlife value. Interested landowners can then send an email to request further assistance or to simply ask a question about their forest.

The MO Woods app is not a substitute for a forester. It is meant to be a starting point, and is written to capture statewide scenarios in broad categories. It will not identify specific market conditions or forest health issues. When in doubt, send an e-mail to a local forester.



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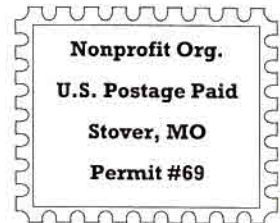
< Density Woods Species + Edit

Add details for all species of trees found in your woods.

	White Oak Group Percent: 10 Size: Small 4-11" Quality: Medium	>
	Red Oak Group Percent: 0 Size: Small 4-11" Quality: Low	>

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"Return Service Requested"

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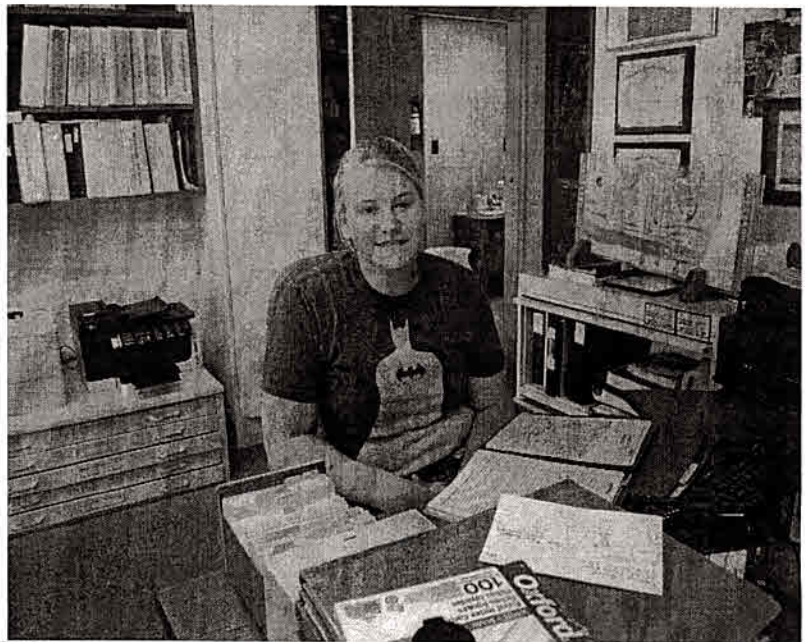
Kevin Franken, Resource Conser-
vationist

John Draffen, Soil Conservation
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An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

New Face in the Office

We have a new face in our office this summer. Chloe Schwartz is working part time as our Summer Intern. Chloe is studying Conservation at State Fair Community College. Chloe works three days a week and will be with us through the end of August.



Farm and Conservation Safety Day

Friday August 22nd 2014-EXCELSIOR FIRE STATION

Come anytime between 5PM and 7PM

Light Refreshments Will be provided

Several Safety Topics will be covered at different learning stations

Including:

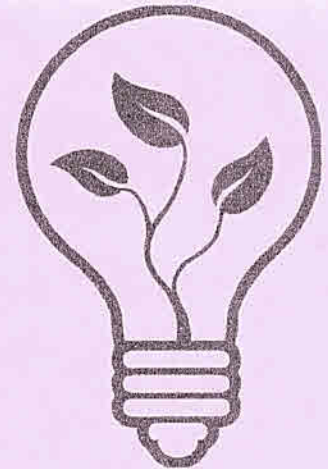
Soil and Water Puppet Show

Fire Safety

Grain Safety

Power Equipment Safety

Tractor and PTO Safety



Event Sponsors

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District

Stover FFA, Versailles FFA, University Extension

Versailles Rural Fire Department, Missouri Farm Bureau